



DATCP Celebrates Inaugural Military Consumer Protection Day with Presentation to Troops

Release Date: July 17, 2013

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MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is partnering with the state’s Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to recognize the inaugural Military Consumer Protection Day on July 17. DATCP will offer a presentation to staff at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Madison on consumer topics for military members and their families. The event is limited to staff at the Joint Forces Headquarters, but resources presented during the session are available to all for free online.

Military Consumer Protection Day is sponsored by the Federal Trade Commission and a nationwide collective of government agencies, advocacy organizations and private sector groups.

“We are proud to recognize this event and the importance of consumer protection laws and resources to military families,” said Sandy Chalmers, Division Administrator for Trade and Consumer Protection. “This day allows us to share the work we do with service members and let them know about resources that they can use to help protect their identities from criminals, avoid scams and resolve issues they may have with businesses.”

Service members face the same consumer issues as any other citizen, with the added burden of scams that specifically target military members and their families. Military families may also need the help of consumer protection agencies in dealing with issues while a relative is deployed.

“There are a wide range of tools available to assist families with consumer matters while their loved ones are on deployment,” added Chalmers. “Teaching soldiers about these resources can help them feel that their families are more secure in their absence.”

As part of this effort, the national coalition is sharing tips and information online about managing money, dealing with credit and debt, building savings, protecting personal information, recognizing identity theft and avoiding fraud. This information is available at www.military.ncpw.gov/.

For Wisconsin service members and their relatives in the state, DATCP is able to provide some assistance and support on consumer issues through the agency’s Consumer Information Hotline (800-422-7128). In addition, the DATCP website (<http://datcp.wi.gov>) has a wide array of consumer information resources available for free download, including:

- Factsheets on a number of consumer topics
- “The Wisconsin Way” – a guide on landlord and tenants’ rights
- Online consumer complaint forms
- “Consumer Alerts” and news releases on recent scams and consumer issues

For additional information or to file a complaint, visit the Consumer Protection Bureau at <http://datcp.wisconsin.gov>, send an e-mail to datcp hotline@wisconsin.gov or call the Consumer Information Hotline toll-free at 1-800-422-7128.

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